

1609/4729

THAT THE
LOYAL AND SPIRITED RESISTANCE
OF THE
FRIENDS
TO THE
KING AND CONSTITUTION,

RESIDENT IN
THE TOWN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OF

Wakefield,

IN THE YEAR 1792,

AGAINST
DEMOCRATICAL EXERTIONS
FOR PROMOTING
DISAFFECTION TO REGAL POWER

AS ESTABLISHED IN

GREAT-BRITAIN,

MAY NOT ENTIRELY PERISH AND SINK INTO OBLIVION,

THE PAPERS

WHICH THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN,

HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AND RE-PRINTED

BY RICHARD HENRY BEAUMONT,

Of Whitley-Hall, in the Parish of Kirkheaton, and County of York.

Those Papers which are of a Seditious Tendency form a small Part of the great
Numbers which were dispersed in the Year 1792, and since that
Time, within the County of York.

STABIT VETUS MEMORIA FACTI.

A. D. 1794,



THAT THE
LOYAL AND SPIRITED RESISTANCE
OF THE
FRIENDS
TO THE
KING AND CONSTITUTION,
RESIDENT IN
THE TOWN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OF
Wakefield,
IN THE YEAR 1792,
AGAINST
DEMOCRATICAL EXERTIONS
FOR PROMOTING
DISAFFECTION TO REGAL POWER
AS ESTABLISHED IN
GREAT-BRITAIN,

MAY NOT ENTIRELY PERISH AND SINK INTO OBLIVION,

THE PAPERS

WHICH THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN,

HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AND RE-PRINTED

BY **RICHARD HENRY BEAUMONT,**

Of Whitley-Hall, in the Parish of Kirkheaton, and County of York.

Those Papers which are of a Seditious Tendency form a small Part of the great
Numbers which were dispersed in the Year 1792, and since that
Time, within the County of York.

STABIT VETUS MEMORIA FACTI.

A. D. 1794,

1609/4729.

BY THE
K I N G,
A
P R O C L A M A T I O N.

G. R.

WHEREAS divers wicked and seditious writings have been printed, published, and industriously dispersed, tending to excite tumult and disorder, by endeavouring to raise groundless jealousies and discontents in the minds of our faithful and loving subjects, respecting the laws and happy constitution of Government, civil and religious, established in this kingdom; and endeavouring to vilify and bring into contempt the wise and wholesome provisions made at the time of the Glorious Revolution, and since strengthened and confirmed by subsequent laws for the preservation and security of the rights and liberties of our faithful and loving subjects: And whereas divers writings have also been printed,

printed, published, and industriously dispersed, recommending the said wicked and seditious publications to the attention of all our faithful and loving subjects: And whereas we have also reason to believe that correspondencies have been entered into with sundry persons in foreign parts, with a view to forward the criminal and wicked purposes above mentioned. And whereas the wealth, happiness and prosperity of this kingdom do, under Divine Providence, chiefly depend upon a due submission to the laws, a just confidence in the integrity and wisdom of Parliament, and a continuance of that zealous attachment to the Government and Constitution of the kingdom, which has ever prevailed in the minds of the people thereof: And whereas there is nothing which we so earnestly desire as to secure the public peace and prosperity, and to preserve to all our loving subjects the full enjoyment of their rights and liberties, both religious and civil: We, therefore being resolved, as far as in us lies, to repress the wicked and seditious practices aforesaid, and to deter all persons from following so pernicious an example, have thought fit, through the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, solemnly warning all our loving subjects, as they tender their own happiness, and that of their posterity, to guard against all such attempts, which aim at the subversion of all regular government within this kingdom, and which are inconsistent with the peace and order of society; and earnestly exhorting them at all times, and to the utmost of their power, to avoid and discourage all proceedings, tending to produce riots and tumults; and we do strictly charge and command all our Magistrates in and throughout our kingdom
of

of Great Britain, that they do make diligent enquiry, in order to discover the authors and printers of such wicked and seditious writings as aforesaid, and all others who shall disperse the same: And we do further charge and command all our Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, chief Magistrates in our cities, boroughs and corporations, and all other our Officers and Magistrates throughout our kingdom of Great Britain, that they do, in their several and respective stations, take the most immediate and effectual care to suppress and prevent all riots, tumults and other disorders, which may be attempted to be raised or made by any person or persons, which, on whatever pretext they may be grounded, are not only contrary to law, but dangerous to the most important interests of this kingdom: And we do further require and command all and every our Magistrates aforesaid, that they do, from time to time, transmit to one of our Principal Secretaries of State, due and full information of such persons as shall be found offending as aforesaid, or in any degree aiding or abetting therein; it being our determination, for the preservation of the peace and happiness of our faithful and loving subjects, to carry the laws vigorously into execution against such offenders as aforesaid.

Given at our Court at the Queen's House, the Twenty-first Day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, in the thirty-second year of our reign.

GOD Save the KING.

Wakefield,

Wakefield, June 8, 1792,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF WAKEFIELD.

WHEREAS divers wicked and seditious writings having been dispersed throughout the Kingdom, tending to produce tumult and disorder, by exciting Jealousies in the minds of the People, his Majesty hath been graciously pleased to issue his Royal Proclamation, solemnly warning his Subjects, to guard against every Attempt, which aims at the Subversion of the Constitutional Government of this Country.

A Meeting is proposed to be held at the *Moot-Hall*, at Twelve o'Clock in the Morning on Monday next, to consider of some proper Mode of expressing the grateful Sense we have of his Majesty's Goodness, in exercising that Authority, which is lodged in him, for the Preservation of the Peace, and Happiness of his faithful Subjects.

Signed by Gen. TOTTENHAM.
Mr. ZOUCH,
And about Thirty others.

TO

TO THE INHABITANTS OF WAKEFIELD.

Fellow Townsmen,

YOU have been requested to assemble, and consider of some proper Mode of expressing the grateful Sense you are *supposed* to have of his Majesty's goodness, in issuing a late Proclamation against what are called divers wicked and seditious writings:—But we intreat you, before you *interrupt the tranquil State* of the Town, by Political Discussion, to reflect on the *Nature and Principle of the Proclamation*, and what Persons and Writings you are called on to reprobate. The Proclamation was issued immediately after a Society had been formed in London, called the Friends of the People,—a Society which has for its Object the Security and Happiness of the Nation, by promoting a timely and temperate Reform of the Abuses of our Constitution,—a Society composed of Men the most respectable for Knowledge and Integrity, this Country can boast,—with the Character and Virtues of two of its Members, who reside in this Town and Neighbourhood, you are well acquainted,—one of whom represents the City of *York*. Will you then assemble to *sanction a Proclamation which*, in the Opinion of several Members of both Houses of Parliament, is intended to *criminate* that Society, and is only calculated to *raise a Spirit of Distrust and Jealousy* in the Nation *at large*. Are you not equally interested in securing the invaluable Privileges which, as Englishmen, you have long enjoyed

—the

—the Liberty of the Press, and the Right of Private Judgment—to think with Freedom, and to express our Thoughts *without fear*?—The Liberty of the Press is the *only Scourge* for the Hypocrisy and Venality of Ministers, and the unconstitutional Exercise of Power:—But is not this Liberty *affected* by the *Proclamation*, since in it *nothing* is specified, *nothing* defined,—and every Sentiment which exposes the corrupt Proceedings of a Minister *may* be deemed wicked and seditious. *Is not an Inquisition* and an Host of Informers poured on the Public, to destroy Private Happiness and the pleasing Intercourse of Society? Are not men *incited* to annoy each other, for the *Innocent* Variations of Judgment on Political Philosophy?—Such Principles once expelled the immortal Locke from this Kingdom,—such Principles would bury all *free* Inquiry, and extinguish the Light of Liberty and Knowledge.

Fellow Townsmen, we are as strongly impressed with Veneration for the *genuine* Principles of the Constitution, and are no less Loyal in our Attachment to the reigning Family, than you:—But why will you assemble to prove that Loyalty which can never have been suspected, and give any indirect Sanction to the Infringement of your inestimable Privilege, The Liberty of the Press.

What is really good can never suffer by Investigation, and they are the greatest Enemies of the State who would conceal from the Public Eye its Principles, or prevent an Inquiry into the Conduct of its Governors.—Before you *sanction* a measure which *strikes* at your *dearest Privileges*,

—WG

—we address you in the Language of Galgacus, the intrepid Briton, when marching to resist the Power of Roman Tyranny:—Countrymen, look back on your Ancestors—look forward to your Posterity.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF WAKEFIELD.

THE Subjects upon which you are called to express your Sentiments this Day are—not the Liberty, but the Licentiousness of the Press; not whether it shall be the chaste Medium of useful Knowledge, but the prostituted Vehicle of Scandal and Public Defamation.—You are called upon to distinguish between the Use, and the Abuse, of that Liberty; not to violate, but preserve and secure, your common Peace and Safety: not to check useful Investigation, but to prevent or destroy the Seeds of Groundless Discontent in the Public Mind; not to sanction the Infringement of your Rights, but to bound their Exercise by the wholesome and necessary Laws of Civil Society;—not to bury Inquiry, but to suppress the Arrogance of false and heated Politicians, and the nefarious Attempts of unfounded Accusation and Blame;—not to extinguish the Light of Liberty and Knowledge, but to crush the daring Fomenters of Rebellion.

You

You are called upon to chuse, whether you will be content with the Enjoyment of the highest Public Prosperity, the certain and known Possession of unrivalled Civil Liberties, under our most excellent Constitution; or, you will be trying to practise the airy Theories of a visionary Politician, and, by political Experiments, exchange certainty for uncertainty.—In short, You are called on to say, Are there, or are there not, any Bounds to be set to the Exercise of Social Rights, and especially to that of the Liberty of the Press.

These are the Subjects upon which you are to decide—Reflect, therefore, on what you are—Reflect on what you possess and enjoy, and act like Men, reasoning from what you know, without venturing on what you know not.

DAVID COLVART.

EQUALITY.

THE perverse Sense imposed on the word Equality, by the Folly or the Fears of some of our Countrymen, is as dangerous as it is absurd; and they may probably see the day, when they may repent having infused into the minds of the People, a notion, that the Equality

to

to be contended for is an Equality of wealth and possessions. "For however it may suit the present purpose of those, who through Interest, or want of candid inquiry, are thus misrepresenting the sentiments of the Friends of Reform, they seem not to be aware of the future evil which such conduct may eventually draw on themselves and the Nation." If by continually repeating this idea, *the uninformed*, or, as they are now arrogantly stiled, the Swinish Multitude; should take it into their heads; that they are justified in enforcing such a System, the consequences will rest on those, who, by a perversion of terms, have wickedly or foolishly propagated so dangerous a Doctrine. The Equality insisted, on by the Friends of Reform, is An Equality of Rights, or in other words, that every person may be equally entitled to the Protection and Benefits of Society; may equally have a Voice in the Election of those who make the Laws, by which he is affected in his liberty, his life, or his property; and may have a fair opportunity of exerting to advantage any talents he may possess. By an Equality of Rights is further meant that every person, whatever be his property, shall have an equal liberty of examining the Principles of Government, since he is equally interested in knowing that the portion of his income is well managed, which he gives up to the Public. Good government can have no other object than the happiness of the governed, and whilst it secures to all an equal right of consenting, by their representatives, to the laws by which they are governed, it is a necessary consequence of such laws that they will secure to those who made them (that is, to every man,) the fruits of his own industry.

Inequality derived from labour and successful enterprise, the result of superior industry and good fortune, is an inequality *essential to the very existence of Society*; and it naturally follows, that the property so acquired, should pass from *father to son*. To render property insecure would destroy all motives to exertion, and tear up public happiness by the roots.

Such are the truths acknowledged and avowed by the Reformers of the present day, and where, but in the wild workings of a disordered imagination, do their enemies find the dangerous doctrines with which they daily alarm the Public? They are not acknowledged by the Government of America. They are not discovered in the Code of the French Nation. They are not avowed by any Constitutional Society in this Kingdom. There are no traces of such doctrines in the *works* of Any *Modern Reformer*. With what justice then do we hear men of the most respectable private characters, accused of holding principles as detestable as those of the Highwayman and Assassin? Again, are the Reformers of the present day less interested than their abusers in the prosperity of their Country? Are Mr. Grey and his numerous coadjutors, men without property or character? Let the opposers of Reform come forward, and answer these Questions—or let us hear no more of Levellers and Levelling Systems; nor let an Odium be thrown on GREAT AND UNCHANGEABLE TRUTHS, from the WILFUL PERVERSION OF A WORD.

GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!

WAKEFIELD,

WAKEFIELD, June 11th, 1792.

A T a numerous and very respectable Meeting of the
INHABITANTS of the Parish and Neighbourhood
of Wakefield :

The Rev. HENRY ZOUCH, a Justice of
the Peace, in the Chair,

It was unanimously resolved,

That it is with the utmost Indignation and Concern,
we have observed divers seditious, and inflammatory
Writings, industriously published throughout the Kingdom,
and which, professing *to inform and enlighten* the People,
have conduced to excite groundless Jealousies, and Discon-
tents amongst them.

That, under the specious Pretence of *Equality* among
Mankind, (a Doctrine however physically true, we hold
to be politically false and dangerous,) different *Associations*
have been established, some of them proposing visionary,
or impracticable Plans of *general Reform*, others entertain-
ing Principles, tending to annihilate all civil Society, nay
even to shake the very Pillars of the Constitution itself;
whilst, there are not wanting *Those*, who, with an im-
posing Confidence, have taken upon themselves to recom-
mend the *Revolution of France*, as a Model of Govern-
ment to be adopted in this free and happy Country.

That

That we rely upon the good Sense of the People of England, that they will resist the Idea of being dictated to by any *Foreign Assembly* upon Earth, most of all by *Emissaries* from the *Jacobins of France*, where, such is the present lamentable Condition of that devoted Land, the House, the Person, and the Property of no one can be safe for an Hour!

Under these Impressions, as the faithful and loyal Subjects of a beloved Prince, we feel ourselves deeply sensible of his Majesty's paternal Goodness, in that he hath been graciously pleased to issue, his ROYAL PROCLAMATION, *at this Time*, and we trust, that this Solemn Act of the *Supreme Magistrate* will have its proper Weight, with every peaceable Citizen, and every honest Man.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his close Attention to the important Business of this Day, and that he be desired to transmit Copies of these Resolutions to the Right Honourable the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his Majesty's two Secretaries of State.

Resolved also, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to those Gentlemen who joined in proposing it.

H. ZOUCH, Chairman.

WAKEFIELD,

WAKEFIELD, Dec. 10th, 1792.

AT a very numerous and respectable Meeting of the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Wakefield, held at the Moot-Hall there, on Monday the 10th Day of December, 1792, pursuant to public Advertisement,

Mr. WILLIAM STEER, (Constable,)
in the Chair,

It was unanimously resolved,

1st. That several *inflammatory and seditious Writings* have been industriously dispersed throughout the Kingdom, with a View to alienate the Minds of the People from that Allegiance which they owe to their lawful Sovereign, and to subvert the goodly Fabric of the English Constitution, reared and upheld by the successive Virtue and Wisdom of all the great and good Men, who, for Centuries have gone before us.

2d. That there are many evil-disposed Persons acting in Concert with Persons in Foreign Parts, who under the specious Pretence of holding out *Liberty and Equality to all Men*, are contriving to introduce Anarchy and Confusion, into this free and happy land, which would tend to destroy the present very flourishing state of our Trade
and

and Manufactures, and bring Thoufands to Want and Mifery.

3d. That whatever Support the Emissaries from *France* may flatter their Employers with the Hopes of receiving from these Kingdoms, we trust in God, that they will find themselves deceived, and that all Descriptions of People will spurn, with a just and generous Resentment, the Attempts which are now making to accomplish the Ruin of their Native Country.

4th. Impressed with these Sentiments, We do hereby resolve and declare, That we will use every Exertion in our Power, in Order to discourage all Seditious Publications, or such as may tend to disturb the Public Peace, and we will endeavour to bring to Justice the Authors, Printers, or Publishers of them ; That we will hold ourselves in Readiness to prevent or suppress all Tumults and Riots whatever, and to carry the Law into full Effect against all Persons, *combining or assembling together*, for unjustifiable Purposes.

5th. That we will exert ourselves by every legal Means in our Power, to strengthen the Arm of Magistracy and to maintain and defend those great *Constitutional Rights*, which we hold it the bounden Duty of every good Citizen to do.

6th. That these Resolutions be written on Parchment, and handed from House to House, in the Town and Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood of WAKEFIELD, for the Signatures of such Persons who shall be willing to sign the same ; and after Friday next, be left at the Clerk of the Peace's Office, in Wakefield, for the same Purpose, till Saturday Night.

7th. That these Resolutions be printed in the General Evening Post, the Star, the York, Leeds, Sheffield, and Manchester Newspapers.

8th. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his Readiness in complying with the Requisition of the Gentlemen, at whose Instance he called this Meeting.

9th. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Rev. Henry Zouch, a Justice of the Peace, for his Attendance thereat, and for his indefatigable Zeal in securing the Peace and Happiness of the Town and Neighbourhood of Wakefield.

WILLIAM STEER, Chairman.

At a time when the sentiments and principles of every Individual are become matter of public inquiry, we make no further apology for obtruding on public notice, than the desire of vindicating ourselves from the mistakes and prejudices which have arisen in consequence of our refusing to sign the Resolutions passed at the Moot-Hall, in Wakefield, December 10, 1792.

1. **N**OT having seen or read any publications, whose professed object, as those resolutions seem to express, is to invade the peace and tranquillity of this kingdom; and not having any proof of there being "many evil disposed persons, acting in concert with persons in foreign parts, who under the specious pretence of holding out Liberty and Equality to all men, are contriving to introduce anarchy and confusion;" we cannot by our signatures declare our belief of such assertions; although we mean not to deny that the excellence of our constitution has been called in question: but then the attack has been by *argument*, and surely if it has its basis in utility, it may be defended *by argument*! That which is good, receives fresh lustre from every investigation, whether it be made by its friends or its enemies; and we cannot pay the revered form of the British Legislature so poor a compliment, as to suspect its capability of standing such a test.

2. We

2. We conceive it to be the spirit of those resolutions; to suppress that manly freedom of thought, which it is the glory of man, and hath always been the *peculiar boast* of Britons to assert: which is the only foundation of real reverence and steady obedience to wise and wholesome laws, and which can only lead to a firm security of the peace and happiness of society.

3. The framers of those resolutions appear to us, to have exercised a power which the laws of the land deny to any man, or body of men, that of prejudging a fellow citizen before his trial, and by this means striking at the dearest privileges of an Englishman, the trial by an unprejudiced jury.

4. That as we would desire to be the real friends of harmony and peace, we cannot give countenance to any measures, which appear to us (although the professed intention be very different) only calculated to disturb the tranquillity of society. If the progress of any species of investigation is dreaded, the records of history testify, that all resolutions which have the appearance of persecution, or which seem to lay an embargo on the freedom of the mind, become the most powerful stimulatives to its diffusion.

5. As steady friends to those glorious principles which were so clearly ascertained, and boldly asserted at the Revolution of 1688, and by which the present Family is seated upon the Throne, we cannot consent to have our admiration thrown back into the obscurity of "centuries"

past, in which, from the feeble light that history affords, we see little else than cause to mourn the excesses of tyranny and cruel usurpation.

We think it necessary to add, that we are sincerely attached to the English Constitution, as composed of a King, a House of Lords, and a House of Commons: understanding by the latter a real representation of the people. At the same time we declare, that our attachment to the Constitution arises not from a blind veneration for precedent and antiquity, but from a firm conviction of its being well adapted to the genius of the people, and well calculated to ensure and promote their happiness, which is the sole purpose of all good government. Further, we believe it to be the duty of every friend to his country to endeavour, by all peaceable means, to restore to the people their right of representation, upon which "*the absolute salvation of the Constitution depends.*"

Having the peace and good order of society at heart, we have *ever* held it our duty, as it is our inclination, when necessary, to co-operate with the civil magistrate in the suppression of all tumults and riots, whenever they are found to exist.

We are bound in justice to the friends of reform, to assert, that their designs have been grossly misrepresented when they have been accused of tearing up by the roots the happiness of society, by equalizing the property of individuals; nothing can be more opposite than the two
ideas

ideas of equal rights and equal property, and no man would suffer more by the latter than those who have been the strenuous advocates for the rights of the people;—to accuse men of such intentions, is charging them with principles equally destructive to all order and happiness, with those of the robber and assassin. Let men beware then of such uncharitable and wicked libels upon the character of their neighbours.

Wakefield, Dec. 18, 1792.

J. F. SMITH.
R. BAKEWELL.

A PARAGRAPH

Which appeared in a Leeds Newspaper,

July 2, 1792.

ON Friday last, a small parcel was brought by a post-boy to one of the first inns at Wakefield, addressed to a gentleman (Mr. William Beatson, of Hollinthorp, a true Friend of the King and Constitution, and improperly chosen by Jacobins, to be employed as a *Tool* in dispersing their infamous Publications,) who usually dines at

at the ordinary there on the market day.—On opening it, there were found (curiously wrapped up) a number of inflammatory hand-bills, and an anonymous letter requesting the gentleman would dispose of them amongst his acquaintance.—The letter being read, and also one of the bills, they were all exhibited on the table after dinner, and *unanimously* ordered to be burnt, which they immediately were, to the great pleasure of near twenty gentlemen who were then present.

C O P Y

OF ONE OF THE SEDITIOUS PAPERS

Delivered to Mr. W. Beatson, of Hollinhorpe,

At the Strafford-Arms,

On Friday the 29th of June, 1792.

AN infamous and calumnious falsity having been asserted in the Wakefield Resolutions of the 11th of June, respecting the present State of the French Nation; and a most glaring and designing Misrepresentation of the Principles of the Society of the Friends of the Constitution at Paris, called Jacobins, having been printed in the said Resolutions; It is thought necessary, in order that Truth may

may have its proper influence over the minds of those on whom Imposition has been practised, to publish the Answer of the Jacobins at Paris to the Delegates of the Constitutional Society at *Manchester*. The good sense of the sober and temperate part of mankind will then judge whether there be any thing in it like *dictating* to the People of England; and whether the friends of Reform are not the real friends of the human race; and whether those may not be concluded its enemies, who, by thanking his Majesty for his Proclamation, evince themselves the Supporters of Ministerial Hypocrisy—and impudently proclaim to the World, not only their Apostacy from the Cause of Freedom, but their wish to persecute those with whom they formerly acted, because (as honest men) they cannot (like them) submit to a versatility and duplicity of conduct which is a disgrace to human nature. For the Public ought to be informed, that the Leaders in addressing his Majesty, both at *Wakefield and Rotherham*, were Associators for a Reform in Parliament in the Year 1783: And then declared, “ That the Commons House of Parliament ought to have a common Interest with the Nation; and that in the present state of the Representation of the People in Parliament, the Commons of this Realm are partially and inadequately represented, and consequently cannot have that Security for their Liberties which it is the aim of the Constitution they should have.”—These men are now giving themselves the lie direct.—*Englishmen*, think for yourselves! Beware of Sycophants, who fatten on the produce of your Labours! Study your own interest, and put implicit confidence in no man!

As

As to the Address from the Town of Sheffield, it is not worth a Comment; it being a palpable forgery. The Motion for it was negatived by a very great Majority yet *certain honest Gentlemen* would have an Address of their own—and had it—and christened it, *The Address of the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood.*

ANSWER OF M. CARRA*,

Vice President of the Society called Jacobins, in Paris,

TO

The Delegates of the Society at Manchester.

IT is just one hundred years since the English afforded a sublime example to the Universe, in levelling the despotic pride of Kings, and in exhibiting the first glimpse of a Declaration of the Rights of Man in their Constitutional Charter. At that time the other Nations of the Globe were surrounded with the thick clouds of ignorance, and bent under the yoke of the most shameful slavery. At present the French have imitated your example, and imitated it with a degree of perfection which doubtless

* One of the Twenty-one Deputies who were guillotined at Paris, October 31, 1793.

doubtless heretofore you were not permitted to attain, and which is no more than the natural and successive progress of human reason. At present, also, it is the English who commence the general alliance of all Nations, and which, we may rest assured, will make of one family the human race. Yes, Brethren and Friends, the English and the French, (re-united for ever by the ties of justice, humanity and the most brotherly affection,) will combat in union for the maintenance of their common liberty, and the perfectioning of their respective Governments. In vain the ebullition of despotic rage among the Tyrants of Europe flatters itself, as formerly, to set one people at enmity with another, to augment the number of their Slaves, or to gratify their Revenge: The hour of these errors and illusions has passed,—national animosities, fomented by the intrigue and imposture of Courts, are beginning to be extinguished.

The French People, the French Soldiers, and the French Sailors see nothing but Brethren and Friends among the same classes of the English; and earnestly desire to take them in their Arms, and contract with them, on the Holy Gospel of the Rights of Man, an eternal Compact of Concord and Peace.

Already the English Flag, united and entwined with the tri-coloured Flag of France, and the thirteen Stripes of the brave Americans, is suspended from the Roofs of almost every Patriotic Society in France. Already several Civic Feasts have been celebrated in almost every Department of the Empire, consecrating the Alliance
which

which we have sworn anew to observe with all the Patriots of England, in the persons of the Deputies from the Society of the *far-famed Town of Manchester*.—Friends, tell your fellow citizens, those men whom the genius of industry and of patriotism have rendered so dear to all the lovers of the arts of commerce and of humanity—tell them that you have seen here, Frenchmen (whose natural character has long been weighed down by slavery, but now risen and developed by the energetic sentiments of the Rights of Man and of Liberty,) now breathing a spirit of universal Philanthropy—seeing none but Brethren among men, and relations among people. Tell them that our courage and perseverance will stand every test, and that we have not sworn in vain to live Freemen or to die. Tell them again (though the Tyrants of Europe redouble their rage,) that the Politics of the true Patriots of France and of the Jacobins so dreaded by the Traitors and Enemies of Liberty, do not consist in desiring the glory and the prosperity of the Country which gave them birth; But the glory, the prosperity and the liberty of every other Nation. Yes, this is the perpetual, unremitting object of the Jacobins; that is to say, of an immense majority of the Nation. And, in virtue of this happy disposition, the friends of the Constitution at Paris, in its own name, and in the name of all the Patriotic Societies of the French Empire, ties itself by an inviolable promise to the Constitutional Society of Manchester. The Assembly invites you to its Meetings while you stay at Paris.

The

The Society, in ordering this Discourse to be printed; directs the Transmission of it to all the affiliated Societies, as well as to the Constitutional Society of Manchester.

(Signed)

CARRA, Vice President.

DUCOS and } Deputies to the
SALADIN, } *National Assembly.*

DEPERREY, ROI, } Secretaries.
DOPPET, }

N. B. The above Discourse was delivered by *Carra* to *Cooper*, the Delegate from Manchester, who has since that time swindled many industrious Tradesmen in Bolton and the neighbourhood of different sums of Money, to a considerable amount:—And he is now (in order to evade the payment of his just Debts,) suffering a voluntary Exile upon the Continent of America.—MAY ALL ENGLISH JACOBINS BEAR HIM COMPANY IN THE BACK SETTLEMENTS.

D

SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD SOCIETY

FOR

CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION.

THIS SOCIETY, composed chiefly of the Manufacturers of SHEFFIELD, began about four months ago, and is already increased to nearly two Thousand Members; and is daily increasing, exclusive of the adjacent Towns and Villages, who are forming themselves into similar Societies.

Considering as we do, that the want of knowledge and information in the general mass of the People, has exposed them to numberless impositions and abuses, the exertions of this SOCIETY are directed to the acquirement of useful knowledge, and to spread the same, as far as our endeavours and abilities can extend.

We declare that we have derived more true knowledge from the two works of Mr. Thomas Paine, entitled the RIGHTS of MAN, Part the First and Second, than from any other Author on the subject. The practice as well as the principle of government is laid down in those works, in a manner so clear and irresistibly convincing, that this SOCIETY do hereby resolve to give their thanks to Mr.

Paine

Paine, for his two said Publications entitled "Rights of Man" Part 1st and 2d. Also

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this Society be given to Mr. Paine for the affectionate concern he has shewn in his second work in behalf of the Poor, the Infant, and the Aged ; who notwithstanding the opulence which blesses other parts of the community, are by the grievous weight of taxes rendered the miserable victims of poverty and wretchedness.

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this SOCIETY be given to J. Horne Tooke, Esq. for his meritorious support of our Lawful Privileges, as a firm Advocate of our natural and just Rights, the establishment of an equal representation of the People.

Resolved unanimously, that this SOCIETY disdaining to be considered either of a ministerial, or an opposite party, (names of which they are tired, having been so often deceived by both) do ardently recommend it to all their fellow Citizens, into whose hands these Resolutions may come, to confer seriously and calmly with each other, on the subject alluded to ; and to manifest to the World, that the Spirit of true Liberty is a spirit of order ; and that to obtain Justice, it is consistent that we be Just Ourselves.

Resolved unanimously, that these Resolutions be printed, and that a Copy thereof be transmitted to the SOCIETY for CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION in London, requesting their approbation for Twelve of our Friends to
be

be entered into their Society, for the purpose of establishing a connection and a regular communication with that and all other similar Societies in the Kingdom.

By order of the Committee,

Sheffield, March 14, 1792.

DAVID MARTIN, Chairman.

THE MANCHESTER CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY, fully satisfied that the voice of reason is seldom heard amidst tumult and confusion—that the true friends of the people are also the truest friends of peaceable demeanour, and patient investigation—that the advocates of a timely and temperate reform in the abuses of government, require no assistance but from argument, and that their adversaries have no resource but in violence and abuse, the common refuge of a cause that can be no otherwise supported—*think it their duty* to reply by their actions to the calumnies of their enemies, and to step forward at this moment of public perturbation, in support of peace, and order, and law.

Hitherto the people of England have supposed the statutes of this realm, duly executed, were sufficient of themselves to prevent or to punish offences against the state, and that if the laws were inadequate to their purpose, it was the

the duty of the legislature to remedy the defect. Hitherto the people of England have supposed that the peaceable discussion, of the errors and abuses which time may have introduced into the constitution under which they live, was not only their privilege, but their right—not merely a matter of expedience, but in justice to themselves and their posterity, their bounden duty.

The proclamation, which his Majesty's Ministers have so unadvisedly issued, found the people thus happily persuaded: neither distrusting the laws of their country, nor involved in any riotous meetings or tumultuous discussions. Using, but not abusing their right of investigating the principles of Government, and the conduct of their public servants, by the peaceable means of reason and argument. The true friends of their country have been grieved to see this state of the public mind so materially disturbed by the late Proclamation—the obvious tendency of which is to create alarm where none existed before—to sow the seeds of mutual discord and suspicion among the people—to excite distrust of the Laws, the Magistrates, and the Government of the Country—and to give existence to those very "*proceedings tending to produce Riot and Tumult*," which it professes to guard against. Nevertheless a public Meeting is proposed to be held in the town of Manchester, on Monday next "to consider of a proper Address to his Majesty," in consequence of this very Proclamation.

In the present agitated state of the public mind, the Impropriety of such a meeting cannot be doubted; and
the

the *obvious tendency*, of a multitude of people, of various and opposite sentiments assembling to discuss a public measure of a violent nature and containing the most dubious assertions, and the most personal allusions; is too glaring to be mistaken. By violence and tumult—by intemperate debate and public confusion, the Cause of the people must inevitably be injured. This is the game for their enemies to play; and there is reason to believe the opportunities will be eagerly sought for.

The Manchester Constitutional Society will never relinquish their Principles, or lose sight of an effectual Reform in the Representation of the People; but they renounce and disclaim, such means of effecting their purpose, or promoting their cause.—They do therefore most earnestly exhort the Members of their own and similar Societies in this Town and Neighbourhood, and every true Friend to the Rights of the People, to evince themselves the True Friends also of Public Peace and good order, by abstaining from the Meeting of Monday next; which, however upright the motives of the persons who have called it, has a direct tendency *at the present Crisis*, to endanger the harmony and tranquillity of the Town and Neighbourhood.

Signed by order, and on the behalf of the

Manchester Constitutional Society.

Manchester, June 24, 1792.

THOMAS WALKER, President.
SAMUEL JACKSON, Secretary.

WAR!

W A R !

*The bane of human Happiness,
The destruction of Trade and Commerce;
And highly derogatory to the Interests
Of the British Nation.*

BUT such appears to be the determination of the British Court, by their voluntary, unrequested interference in DUTCH politics; by the proclamation offering bounties to SEAMEN, and by the sudden equipment of SHIPS of THE LINE. With such hostile preparations; the *internal* tranquillity and interest of this country can have no connection.

Three proclamations have been issued; the one to prohibit political discussion, another to embody a few of the militia, and a third offering *Bounties to Seaman*.—With regret we behold the ill-timed addresses, trumped up, by time-serving men, to serve time-serving purposes, and the designs of self-interested men.

By such addresses, Government evidently means to feel the pulse of the people; and if it can procure these loyal and dutiful approbations of our present happy Constitution of perjured electors, and pensioned Representatives

tives—of *five* million of tythes, and *twenty* million of taxes—it may safely conclude, that no absurdity can be too gross for the people to swallow, and no burthens too heavy for them to bear.

By this loyal support to the measures of the ministry, Great Britain will probably be drawn in to defend the Electorate of Hanover, and join the band of Continental Despots now leagued against the liberties of Mankind.

Inhabitants of Sheffield! pause awhile on behalf of your our own interests, and consider what class of ye can be benefited by WAR.

Will funded Property become more valuable? Will landed Property be increased by it? Will it diminish the Excise, or the Land Tax, or the House Tax, or the Window Tax, or the Commutation Tax, or any of the long, long catalogue of Taxes; which lie so heavy upon this devoted Country.

Will the home trade be increased by War? By War which will add to these numerous Taxes—which will enhance the price of all the necessaries of life—and which will lessen the consumption of Manufactories of every kind.

Will the exporter benefit by War! which will increase the risk of exportation—the price of insurance—and the prime cost of every material? By war, which will delay the execution of foreign orders, by depriving our Merchants

chants of their Seamen—and put in jeopardy the most material part of our trade.

Have we forgotten our streets filled with untenanted houses during the greatest part of the American War, or the ruinous prices of Iron, Steel, and other articles for our Manufactories, and Trade almost destroyed, and the poor Mechanics almost starving for want of bread? What a war occasioned then, a war may again occasion; and again the prosperity of the Country may be put into the cast of a die.

A war with France (which seems at present meditated) will deprive us of the French, the Dutch, the Austrian and German markets: for all these nations will be engaged in it. Our East and our West India possessions will again be in danger, for sooner or later they must be involved in the contest. And as the French assisted the Americans to obtain *their* freedom, the latter may think it right to return the compliment. And thus may the ignorance and bigotry of *Church and King Politics*, deprive us at a stroke of every market for our Manufactures which the world affords.

Suppose for a moment that the rich and opulent Manufacturers can support this—What will the little maker the country dealer, say to such a crisis of affairs? who has no credit to give; whose profits maintain his family but from hand to mouth; and who with difficulty procures the necessary supply of cash, for the mechanics employed in his service.

E

And

And what will such say to this, who already feel the present high prices of all sorts of provisions, when they find their wages fallen and employment scarce. Should a war be the consequence of these time serving addressers, where is employment to be found? and how are the families of the POOR to be maintained? If a decent subsistence cannot even now be obtained but with unwearied labour and painful exertion, what is to be done when employment ceases, when Wages are sunk, and Provisions rise? Look ye to it ye loyal addressers, ye hood-winked Politicians—for should your courtly effusions be the stalking horse for intended hostilities, to you, and to you alone, the starving people will have a right to look for subsistence.

Ye numerous speculators in building land, in Sheffield and its Vicinity, are ye advocates for WAR? how much per yard will it add to the value of your Property? how much will it diminish the price of building? what additions will it make to the number of sub-purchasers? or how will the covenants you, or they may have engaged in, be more advantageously fulfilled under the pressure of this national calamity?

What will the industrious tribe of Brickfellers and Timber Merchants—of Brickmakers, and Bricklayers, and Carpenters and Joiners and Smiths and Plumbers and Workmen employed in building, of all denominations, say to this fatal measure? To the projected multitude of new buildings, they have reasonably looked for constant employment and comfortable subsistence. Should

war

war be the consequence of your loyalty, what will they do?—Or where are they to go?

The POOR have seldom time to attend to these public meetings; they are seldom permitted to come to them, they seldom understand the purport of them, or foresee the effect of them upon their own interest. As therefore they are not likely to attend for themselves, it will become your duty to think at least for a moment, what is to become of THEM. Cease to gull them with insolent falsehoods, that the Laws are the same for the Poor as the Rich, or with idle panegyrics on a rotten Constitution which *ye* have not examined, and of which *they* feel not the benefit.

Ye know, or ye ought to know, that Justice is never to be obtained without expence, and that the poor cannot afford it. Ye know or you ought to know, that various laws like the Game Laws, and the Combination Laws, are expressly made against the Poor—that *they* are liable to be torn from their Families by the violence of the press-gang, while the Rich and the Luxurious, repose in peace upon their beds of down.

Headlong promoters of self-destruction, look round upon the Habitations of Misery, and pause for a few Moments on the consequence of your Proceedings, to the wretched possessors of them.

You well know, (or ye ought to know) that the present Politics of every court in Europe, lean to *War with*
the

the French?—Ye are apprised of the hostile preparations making in *this* Kingdom, and can ye be blind to the purpose of them?—Again consider if a war *should* happen, what will become of the Poor, or whose property will be safe?

You are now forewarned—the consequences are with yourselves, and the blood upon your own heads. The Friends of the People hear with pity, and bear with patience the hourly calumnies to which they are exposed. They entertain however no personal enmities, no aversion but to the enemies of the people, and no disrespect of the Constitution, but where it is hostile to the rights of the People.

Would ye do good by your Meeting, address his Majesty that he would be graciously pleased to remove from his Councils all Ministers hostile to the peace of the Country, and take such measures as are most effectual to prevent the dangers of impending War.

SYDNEY.

DECEMBER 24, 1792.

A H I N T
TO THE
F R I E N D S
OF THE
K I N G A N D C O N S T I T U T I O N .

WE are, as it were, laying Gunpowder, Grain by Grain, under the *Old Building of Error and Superstition*, which a single Spark may hereafter inflame, so as to produce an *instantaneous Explosion*; in consequence of which, *that Edifice*, the Erection of which has been the Work of Ages, may be overturned in a Moment, and so effectually that the same Foundation can never be built upon again.

Vide a celebrated English Author, elected, in the Year 1792, a Member of the National Convention.

Qui vult decipi, decipatur.

THE
HISTORICAL
AND
GEOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTION
OF
THE
COUNTY OF
WILTSHIRE
IN
THE
THIRTEENTH
CENTURY
BY
J. H. COLEMAN
F.R.S.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY
JOHN JOHNSON,
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD,
1831.

A H I N T
TO THE
F R I E N D S
OF THE
K I N G A N D C O N S T I T U T I O N .

WE are, as it were, laying Gunpowder, Grain by Grain, under the *Old Building of Error and Superstition*, which a single Spark may hereafter inflame, so as to produce an *instantaneous Explosion*; in consequence of which, *that Edifice*, the Erection of which has been the Work of Ages, may be overturned in a Moment, and so effectually that the same Foundation can never be built upon again.

Vide a celebrated English Author, elected, in the Year 1792, a Member of the National Convention.

Qui vult decipi, decipatur.

[37]

A HINT

TO THE

MEMBERS

OF THE

KING AND CONSTITUTION.

WE are, as it were, taking Oath, that we will maintain the Constitution, which a single Spark may kindle into a flame, as to produce an insupportable weight; in consequence of which, the fabric of which has been the Work of Ages, may be overturned in a moment, and so effectually that the same Foundation can never be built upon again.

This is a subject of the highest importance, and of the most delicate nature, and one which the National Convention

has now before it.

